

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re

U.S. Application of:

For:

Akiyoshi JOHDAI and Koji HIGASHIKAWA
BINDING MEMBER REMOVING APPARATUS,
AUTOMATIC DOCUMENT FEEDER, SHEET
PROCESSING APPARATUS, AND IMAGE
FORMING APPARATUS

Confirmation No.:

U.S. Serial No.:

Filed:

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

To Be Assigned

To Be Assigned

Concurrently

To Be Assigned

To Be Assigned

Prior Application:

Serial No.: 09/377,011

Confirmation No.: 7240

Filed: August 18, 1999

Group Art Unit: 3651

Examiner: Patrick H. Mackey

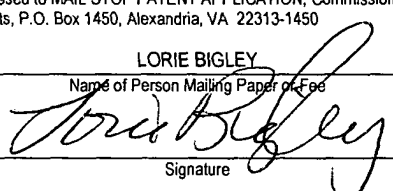
MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

EXPRESS MAIL MAILING LABEL NO.: EL 794576615 US DATE OF DEPOSIT: AUGUST 1, 2003 I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
LORIE BIGLEY Name of Person Mailing Paper or Fee
 Signature
August 1, 2003 Date of Signature

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

The following is a preliminary amendment that is being submitted concurrently
with the filing of a Divisional Application.

Attorney Docket No.: 15162/01041

Preliminary to the examination of the above-identified application, filed concurrently herewith, please amend this Application as follows: